REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended by the present amendment. Claims 7-27 stand withdrawn in response to a prior restriction requirement.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after final rejection permits entering of amendments, canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,762,792 to Matsumura; Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsumura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,533 to Hidari; Claims 2 and 3 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 28 and 29 were allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsumura.

Claim 1 is directed to an image processing circuit that includes, *inter alia,* a selector configured to receive pixel data from an image pickup device and stored pixel data from a main memory. The image processing circuit also includes a real time processing unit connected to an output of the selector and configured to perform a general image processing of the pixel data received from the selector. Further, the selector is configured to select at

least one of the pixel data from the image pickup device and the stored pixel data from the main memory.

In a non-limiting example, Applicant's Figure 1 shows an image processing circuit that includes real time processing unit 23. Real time processing unit 23 is configured to perform a general image processing of pixel data received from lens 30a, CCD 21, and analog signal processing circuit 22 (e.g., image pickup device). In addition, the real time processing unit 23 may perform a general image processing of stored pixel data from main memory 29. Thus, the real time processing unit 23, in the present example is configured to perform a general image processing, for example pixel interpolation, color transformation, or contour correction on data received in real time from the image pickup device or alternatively the real time processing unit 23 may perform general image processing on image data stored in the main memory 29. Thereby, general image processing can be conducted at a high speed in the real time processing 23, which enables processing to be performed several times faster than if the processing were performed by software.[1]

Applicant respectfully submits Matsumura does not teach or suggest a real time processing unit connected to an output of a selector and configured to perform general image processing of pixel data from an image pickup device and stored pixel data from a main memory. Alternatively, Matsumura describes a first signal processing circuit 22 that receives pixel data output from an A/D converter 20 to calculate luminance data and color difference data.[2] Further, Matsumura indicates that image data is stored in a DRAM 32 (e.g., main memory). However, Matsumura does not indicate or suggest that either A/D converter 20 or first signal processing circuit 22 are configured to receive data from any main memory (e.g., DRAM 32). Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Matsumura does not teach or suggest "a selector configured to receive said pixel data from the image pickup device and stored

[1] Specification at page 28, line 20, to page 29, line 4.
[2] Figure 1 and at column 3, lines 25-30.

pixel data from a main memory [and] a real time processing unit connected to an output of said selector and configured to perform a general image processing of the pixel data received from the selector," as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsumura in view of Hidari.

Claim 4 depends from Claim 1, which as discussed above is believed to patentably define over Matsumura. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Matsumura also does not teach or suggest the features of independent Claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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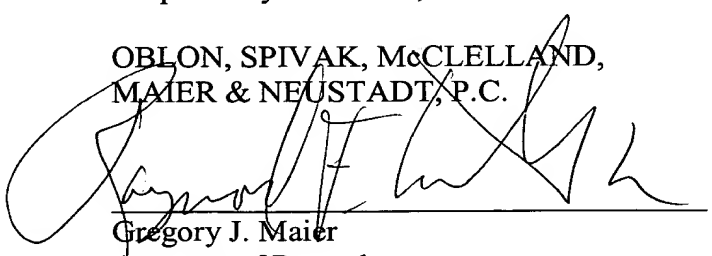

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